CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 A47J31/58 A47J ÎPC 7 A47J31/40 A47J31/52 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A47J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 3 292 527 A (ROLAND STASSE) 1,3,4 20 December 1966 (1966-12-20) column 4, line 7 - line 26 column 4, line 58 - line 61 figure 1 US 6 240 831 B1 (ROLFES PATRICK J) 1,3,4 5 June 2001 (2001-06-05) column 2, line 9 - line 35 column 3, line 66 -column 4, line 8 Α 8 figure 1 US 5 642 656 A (BRAENDLE WALTER) 1 1 July 1997 (1997-07-01) column 1, line 30 - line 35 column 1, line 56 - line 63 column 2, line 40 - line 49 figure 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filino date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such document "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 5 December 2003 26/01/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Kempeneers, J Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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